LISTING OF CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all previous versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Please cancel claims 3, 4, 6-10, 12-18, 21, 22, 24-28 and 30-40 without prejudice or disclaimer.

C1

1. (Previously presented) A database managing apparatus comprising:

attribution record group forming means for classifying data, which is requested to be stored into a database, according to attributions defined in the database, and for making plural attribution record groups corresponding to each of the attributions;

data compressing means for compressing the attribution record groups in a unit of each of the attribution record groups; and

file forming means for combining each of the attribution record groups, which are compressed by the data compressing means, and for forming a data base file,

wherein the data compressing means compresses a particular attribution record group, which is to be searched, with a first compression method, and compresses the other attribution record groups, which are different from the particular attribution record, with a second compression method,

the first compression method compresses the attribution record group so that the attribution record group after being compressed can be decompressed faster than that compressed by using the second compression method, and

the second compression method compresses the attribution record group so that a compression rate is higher than that of the first compression method.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) A database managing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising data decompressing means for decompressing a particular attribution record group, which includes a target record to be retrieved, when a retrieve request for retrieving the target record from the database file is received.

6-10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) A database managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data compressing means further compresses a specific record string, which appears in the attribution record groups frequently compared to the other record string, to reduce a size of the attribution record groups.

12-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) A method of managing database comprising:

an attribution record group forming step for classifying data, which is requested to be stored in a database, according to attributions defined in the database, and for making plural attribution record groups corresponding to each of the attributions;

a data compressing step for compressing the attribution record groups in a unit of each of the attribution record groups; and

a file forming step for combining each of the attribution record groups , which is compressed by the data compressing step, and for forming a data base file,

wherein the data compressing step compresses a particular attribution record group, which is to be searched, with a first compression method, and compresses the other attribution record groups, which are different from the particular attribution record, with a second compression method,

the first compression method compresses the attribution record group so that the attribution record group after being compressed can be decompressed faster than that compressed by using the second compression method, and

3

the second compression method compresses the attribution record group so that a compression rate is higher than that of the first compression method.

20-22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) A method of managing database according to claim 19, further comprising a data decompressing step for decompressing a particular attribution record group, which includes a target record to be retrieved, when a retrieve request for retrieving the target record from the database file is received

24-28. (Canceled)

29. (Original) A method of managing database according to claim 19, wherein the data compressing step further compresses a specific record string, which appears in the attribution record groups frequently compared to the other record string, to reduce a size of the attribution record groups.

30-40. (Canceled)